

My name is Brian Doyle, and I am an eye surgeon who has lived and worked in Montpelier for nearly 11 years. I came to Vermont after training at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, which is the country's oldest eye hospital and home to one of the nation's few eye-only emergency rooms. I worked 80 hours a week for 3 years learning to do laser and incisional surgery alongside some of the country's best surgeons. Surgical training involves observing and then performing a large number of cases and subsequently following the patients to learn what normal healing and complications look like. This is all done under close supervision with expert help available when needed. Surgical outcomes in all specialties are closely linked to how many procedures a surgeon has performed. There is no shortcut to surgical proficiency and the 10,000-hour rule to achieve mastery applies as well to surgery as to other skills.

Here in Vermont, I perform a wide range of eye procedures including lasers and incisional surgery. I see patients from Washington and multiple surrounding counties. Some are my own patients, but many are referred by optometrists. I have appointments available for these procedures within one week, and perform most on the same day as the evaluation.

I am writing to express my concern over S.64. The training proposed by Vermont's optometrists is wholly inadequate to attain proficiency at these skills. The current proposal of 8 hours of preceptorship and performing 2 of each surgical procedure could have been completed in a *single day* of my 3-year training program. This is dangerous legislation that severely undervalues the rigorous nature of surgical training in our country. I urge you to vote for safe surgery by experienced and well-trained surgeons.

Sincerely,

Brian C. Doyle, MD